

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: SWEET REASON IN CONVENTION AS PROTESTANT
PARAMILITARIES FORM "ARMY"

REF: BELFAST 182

1. IF POLITICAL SCIENTISTS HAVE NOT YET RECOGNIZED
EXISTENCE OF CONDITION OF POLITICAL SCHIZOPHRENIA THEY
WOULD DO WELL TO EXAMINE EVENTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND MAY 28.
CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS IN SECOND DAY FULL
DEBATE WERE CHARACTERIZED BY CONTINUED TENTATIVE GROPINGS
FOR ACCOMMODATION ACROSS SECTARIAN DIVIDE. IN EVENING
ULSTER WORKERS COUNCIL (UWC) AND PROTESTANT PARAMILITARY
GROUPS GAVE DINNER DANCE ATTENDED BY 400 CELEBRANTS OF
ANNIVERSARY OF FALL OF POWER-SHARING EXECUTIVE THROUGH
GENERAL STRIKE ACTION.

2. CONVENTION CHAIRMAN SIR ROBERT LOWRY RULED OR
"OBSERVED" THAT DRAFT RULES QUESTIONED BY SOCIAL
DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY (SDLP) WERE NOT RPT NOT
INVALID UNDER 1974 CONSTITUTION ACT (REFTEL).
SIR ROBERT EXPRESSED BELIEF IMPORTANT FACTOR WAS HOW
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RULES IMPLEMENTED. MOST USEFUL FINAL REPORT WOULD BE ONE

THAT INCLUDED DISCUSSIONS AS WELL AS CONCLUSIONS, HE SAID. HE DID NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE POSSIBILITY OF ABUSE RENDERED ESTABLISHMENT BUSINESS COMMITTEE INVALID BUT STRESSED ALL WOULD LOOK TO COMMITTEE TO ACT FAIRLY. QUESTION OF "TRUST" AND DIFFICULTY ACHIEVING IT WAS RAISED IN FIRST MAJOR CONTRIBUTION BY SDLP MEMBER PARLIAMENT GERRY FITT AND BY IAN PAISLEY, SPOKESMAN FOR UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST COALITION. FITT IN ACCEPTING CHAIRMAN'S RULING NOTED SDLP CONCERN THAT MAJORITY VOTE WOULD BE USED RESURRECT MAJORITY RULE IN NORTHERN IRELAND. PAISLEY SAID CONTROVERSY BASED ON SERIOUS MISUNDERSTANDING AND THAT HE WOULD NOT RPT NOT TAKE PART IN ANY COMMITTEE THAT TRIED TO LIMIT THE POWERS OF ANY ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE. THEMES OF "TRUST" AND NECESSITY MAKE CONVENTION WORK ECHOED BY MOST OTHER SPEAKERS.

3. AT DINNER DANCE ATTENDED BY VANGUARD UNIONIST WILLIAM CRAIG AND OFFICIAL UNIONIST HARRY WEST, ULSTER DEFENSE ASSOCIATION (UDA) LEADER MR. ANDY TYRIE ANNOUNCED TO GREAT APPLAUSE THAT ALL PROTESTANT PARAMILITARY FORCES EXCEPT ULSTER VOLUNTEER FORCE (UVF) HAD JOINED TOGETHER IN ONE ULSTER ARMY COUNCIL FOR PURPOSE OF DEFENSE IF NEEDED. THE COUNCIL REPORTEDLY INCLUDES THE UDA, THE ORANGE VOLUNTEERS, THE ULSTER SPECIAL CONSTABULARY ASSOCIATION, DOWN ORANGE WELFARE AND ULSTER VOLUNTEER SERVICE CORPS. RED HAND COMMANDOS HAVE DENIED MEMBERSHIP AND NO MENTION MADE OF FRINGE TERRORIST GROUPS PROTESTANT ACTION FORCE OR GROUP, YOUNG MILITANTS AND YOUNG CITIZEN VOLUNTEERS. NUMBER ACTIVISTS POTENTIALLY INVOLVED ESTIMATED AROUND TWENTY THOUSAND. NEW ORGANIZATION DISTINCT FROM ULSTER LOYALIST CENTRAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE WHICH INCLUDES UWC WITH PARAMILITARY GROUPS. AT THE DINNER DANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN GLENN BARR EXPANDED ON EARLIER REMARKS DESCRIBING NECESSITY TO PREPARE FOR WORST IN WHAT HE CALLED LIGHT HISTORY OF BRITISH ACTIONS. BARR SAID HIS GROUP HAD PREPARED DOCUMENTS RELATING TO MANAGEMENT NORTHERN IRELAND AFFAIRS IN EVENT BRITISH WITHDREW. HIS PLANS INCLUDE TEMPORARY CHAIRMEN OF SUCH GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AS EDUCATION AND DEFENSE. WILLIAM CRAIG PRAISED GREAT DEMOCRATIC EXERCISE OF STRIKE IN ENDING IMPOSED SYSTEM LAST YEAR.

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